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CHARLES CHRISTOPHER PARRY.

Dr. Parry died at his home in Davenport, Iowa, on the morning of February 20th, after an illness of several weeks, pneumonia succeeding a violent attack of the influenza. Another of America's famous botanists is gone from us, one whose services in the elucidation of the flora of our country have been equalled by but few, and whose knowledge of the plants of the western part of the continent was probably exceeded by none.

A brief account of his life and labors is here given, with the certainty that they will be more fully and suitably recognized in another place.

Dr. Parry was born at Admington, Worcestershire, England, August 28th, 1823. He came to the United States in 1832, and spent the next years of his life with his father's family, on a farm in Washington County, New York. He was graduated from Union College, and subsequently received the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In 1846 the family moved to Davenport, Iowa, where he practiced his profession for several years. But he early developed a great fondness and aptitude for botany, and this soon became almost his sole occupation.

His earliest work in that science was done, indeed, about 1842, while in northeastern New York, and in 1847 a great impetus was given to it by his making the acquaintance of Dr. Torrey, and the formation of a friendship which was unbroken during his lifetime. The study of the Davenport flora occupied Dr. Parry's attention for several years. In 1848 he served on Dr. David Dale Owens' Geological Survey of the northwest, and from 1849 to 1852 he was one of the botanists of the Mexican Boundary Survey. In 1861 he made an extensive collecting tour to the Rocky Mountains, and first discovered many of the most interesting plants of that region; this exploration was continued in 1862 in company with Messrs. Hall and Harbour, and again in 1864. In 1867 he accompanied the Pacific Railroad Survey of the 35th Parallel. From 1869 to 1871 he was botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture, and stationed at Washington. In 1872 he again collected in the Rocky Mountain region. In 1873 he was attached to Captain W. A. Jones' Wyoming Expedition. The seasons of 1874 and 1875 were

spent in Utah, and of 1876 with Prof. J. G. Lemmon, in southern California, where a very large collection was accumulated. The season of 1878 was spent in the vicinity of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and in Texas with Dr. Edward Palmer. Of recent years he has paid especial attention to the Californian flora, in close co-operation with Professor Greene.

Dr. Parry was for many years an active and energetic member of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, and was several times its President, and he was a correspondent of numerous other learned societies of America. He made several trips to his native land, and was well-known and esteemed by English and Continental botanists. He was essentially a field student, and the accuracy of his conclusions and observations is largely to be attributed to this fact. Indeed, the bulk and value of his collections, and the number of novelties discovered by him, has probably not been equalled in America. Some of these were published by himself, but the greater part by others, especially by Dr. Torrey, Dr. Engelman, Dr. Gray, Professor Greene, and Dr. Watson. The amount of his writings is not at all in proportion to his discoveries. Of late years he has been especially interested in the genera *Eriogonum*, *Chorizanthe*, *Ceanothus* and *Arctostaphylos*, on all of which he has written at length. He was the author of several lists of plants from the western country, and an occasional contributor to the BULLETIN and other scientific journals.

Personally Dr. Parry was a man of gentle, unassuming nature, and beloved by all who knew him. He was a close student, and continually at work on his chosen science. In the possession of a moderate income, he was enabled to gratify his tastes without need of other occupation. The tidings of his death will bring sincere grief to botanists at home and abroad. His work is commemorated in the genus *Parryella* and in a great number of species, *Primula Parryi* being one of the most elegant plants of its family.

N. L. BRITTON.